

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-34 remain pending in the application.

OBJECTIONS TO CLAIMS 30 AND 32

Claims 30 and 32 have been amended to correct defects in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, the objections should be removed.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(B)

Claims 1-10, 21-28 and 31-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application 0817444 to Zahir Ebrahim (hereinafter, "Ebrahim"). Independent claim 1, from which all other pending claims depend, includes the following:

determining, according to an information object repository selection procedure, which of a number of information object repositories should service the request for the information object without regard as to whether the information object is actually stored at the information object repository selected according to the selection procedure.

(Applicant's claim 1; Emphasis added)

Ebrahim discloses a system for context-dependent name resolution. In particular, Ebrahim states:

Name resolution can include any kind of name resolution lookup for binding one object to another. This includes binding the name of a service to a host computer (or its IP address) that provides that service, and binding the type of service to the name of a service providing that type of service.

(Ebrahim, Col. 3, Lines 47-53.) In accordance with Ebrahim, a request for a particular service or domain is directed to an IP address of a host that can provide the requested service. For example, in the context of a client requesting a movie, Ebrahim states:

The network location of this server must now be determined, so that the user's computer or workstation can connect to it to get the movie service, and so it makes the call:

host_IP_address = nome_hostaddress_lookup(host_handle)

and finally obtains an IP address of an appropriate host that can provide the movie service to the user.

Further calls to this quicktime server may determine a list of movies that are available. Alternatively, a design may be had in which the caller simply specifies the name of the movie he wants to see, and the name lookup returns to the caller the IP address of a host that is currently able to serve the requested movie to the caller.

(Ebrahim, Col. 4, Lines 31-44).

In contrast to claim 1, Ebrahim does not disclose determining which of a number of information object repositories should service a request for an information object without regard as to whether the information object is actually stored at the information object repository selected according to a selection procedure. Instead, Ebrahim discloses a method for resolving names that takes into consideration whether or not a requested information object is available at a particular server or service.

Consequently, claim 1 is not anticipated by Ebrahim. Claims 2-10, 21-28, and 31-34, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, are likewise not anticipated by Ebrahim.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(A)

Claims 11-15 and 29-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Ebrahim in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,205,477 to Johnson et al. (hereinafter "Johnson"). Johnson discloses a method and apparatus for distributing server requests among a plurality of servers in a distributed system. However, neither Johnson nor Ebrahim disclose determining which of a number of information object repositories should service a request for an information object without regard as to whether the information object is actually stored at the information object repository selected according to a selection procedure. Consequently, claims 11-15 and 29-30 are not obvious over the combination of Ebrahim and Johnson.

Similarly, claims 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Ebrahim in view of European Patent Application 0959601 to Abhishek Chauhan

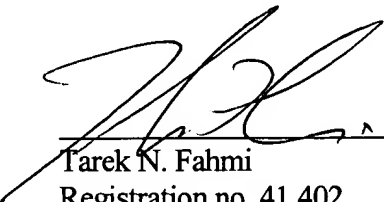
(hereinafter, "Chauhan"). Chauhan discloses a system and method for providing server selection for mirrored sites. However, neither Chauhan nor Ebrahim disclose determining which of a number of information object repositories should service a request for an information object without regard as to whether the information object is actually stored at the information object repository selected according to a selection procedure. Consequently, claims 16-20 are not obvious over the combination of Ebrahim and Johnson.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 9/8, 2003


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